

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.    A method for creating a privacy policy,  
2    comprising:  
3                creating a policy group;  
4                moving a data element to the policy group; and  
5                generating a privacy policy based on the policy  
6    group.
- 1           2.    The method of claim 1, wherein the data element  
2    is a predefined data element.
- 1           3.    The method of claim 1, wherein the data element  
2    comprises at least one sub-element.
- 1           4.    The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                updating a policy-wide property; and  
3                generating the privacy policy based on the  
4    policy-wide property.
- 1           5.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2    generating a privacy policy comprises generating a human-  
3    readable version of the policy.
- 1           6.    The method of claim 5, wherein the human-  
2    readable version of the policy comprises a hypertext  
3    markup language version of the policy.
- 1           7.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2    generating a privacy policy comprises generating an  
3    extensible markup language version of the policy.

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1           8.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2   generating a privacy policy comprises generating a  
3   compact policy.

1           9.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2   generating a privacy policy comprises generating a policy  
3   statement corresponding to the policy group.

1           10.   The method of claim 9, wherein the step of  
2   generating a privacy policy further comprises generating  
3   a table of policy elements, wherein a policy element in  
4   the table of policy elements corresponds to the policy  
5   statement.

1           11.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                   identifying an error in the privacy policy; and  
3                   generating an error statement describing the  
4   error.

1           12.   An apparatus for creating a privacy policy,  
2   comprising:  
3                   creation means for creating a policy group;  
4                   movement means for moving a data element to the  
5   policy group; and  
6                   generation means for generating a privacy  
7   policy based on the policy group.

8           13.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the data  
9   element is a predefined data element.

1           14.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the data  
2   element comprises at least one sub-element.

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1        15. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:  
2                means for updating a policy-wide property; and  
3                means for generating the privacy policy based  
4 on the policy-wide property.

1        16. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the  
2 generation means comprises means for generating a human-  
3 readable version of the policy.

1        17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the human-  
2 readable version of the policy comprises a hypertext  
3 markup language version of the policy.

1        18. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the  
2 generation means comprises means for generating an  
3 extensible markup language version of the policy.

1        19. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the  
2 generation means comprises means for generating a compact  
3 policy.

1        20. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the  
2 generation means comprises means for generating a policy  
3 statement corresponding to the policy group.

1        21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the  
2 generation means further comprises means for generating a  
3 table of policy elements, wherein a policy element in the  
4 table of policy elements corresponds to the policy  
5 statement.

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1           22. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:  
2           means for identifying an error in the privacy  
3 policy; and  
4           means for generating an error statement  
5 describing the error.

1           23. An interface for creating a privacy policy,  
2 comprising:  
3           a first portion for displaying predefined data  
4 elements;  
5           a second portion for displaying groups of data  
6 elements, wherein a group of data elements shares at  
7 least one common property; and  
8           a third portion for displaying a privacy policy  
9 generated from the groups of data elements.

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1           24. A computer program product, in a computer  
2 readable medium, for creating a privacy policy,  
3 comprising:  
4           instructions for creating a policy group;  
5           instructions for moving a data element to the  
6 policy group; and  
7           instructions for generating a privacy policy  
8 based on the policy group.